taken the palm from those presented at your office. I will name some few that were measured; and first, a Portugal Quince, that measured one foot round and weighed a little over a pound; 2d, a Rhode Island Greening that measured 12½ inches round; 3d, a pound sweeting that weighed two pounds and over. This was raised upon the farm of Mr. Andrews, Macomb Co.

Somewhere, (perhaps in your paper,) I have read a notice of a large specimen of the Seek-no-further. I am inclined to think that it was not the true Seek-no-further, but the 20 ounce apple, to which it has a slight resemblance at the eye, but is a much larger and coarser apple. This and many other varieties have been widely disseminated from a nursery in this state under wrong names. HORTICULTURIST.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## Diseased Apple Trees.

The disease in the apple trees of which Mr. Barns speaks in one of your late numbers, is not new. Several of my neighbors have lost large trees by it. There is an orchard near me from which two or three trees have died yearly for several years in succession; and there are some now affected. The disease is called here, the "dry rot." Trees affected with it may be indicated long before they die, by their sallow and diminutive foliage, and their stinted growth. They are often loaded with fruit, but it seldom attains to more than half its usual size, when it becomes shrivelled and dry.

Before looking for a remedy, it is important to ascertain, if practicable, the origin of the disease; for if it shall be found to be induced by bad culture or management, we may prevent it. The only remedy that will be found for trees that are diseased, is to cut them down, and set others in their place.

The trees alluded to above, stood upon a dry, gravelly ridge, with but a slight mixture of earth. The gravel is like that found upon the margin of our lakes. The remainder of the orchard stands upon a good rich soil. Not a tree in this part of the orchard has been affected. Have the trees perished for the want of food? If so, the remedy is obvious.

Again, trees that are removed from a nursery overgrown with grass, will generally be found to be more or less diseased at the heart. They may present no external symptoms of disease; but it will readily be seen by cutting off some of the principal roots, the centre of which will appear dry and dead. Whether this is the cause of the disease referred to above, I am unable to say; but am inclined to think that it may be, as the following facts would seem to show.

Some ten years since, I had, what I then esteemed it, the privilege of removing from an old nursery which was covered with a stiff sod, some two thousand apple trees, mostly suckers of a small size. I set them out in a good soil, intending to graft them. I hoed and nursed them, but it was two or three years before they had sufficient vitality to admit of their being budded or grafted; and then I found that almost every original stock was so diseased, that after making several fruitless attempts to work them, I abandoned them, and worked only the suckers which sprung from their roots, and many of these were so diseased that they died before the grafts had become of a sufficient size to transplant. Seedlings of a year old, set adjoining the above plat some three years afterwards, were budded the same year they were transplanted, and outstripped the others and were of a size suitable for setting before the former. They were also healthy and vigorous, while the others were stinted, the bark rough, and of twice the thickness of the latter. In a word, out of the first plat we obtained but few healthy trees, and full half of them died of the "dry rot."

OAKLAND.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## The Peach.

MR. HURLBUT:

Having noticed in the last number of your paper a communication upon peaches and peach trees, requesting those interested to compare notes; if what I can say will add any thing, I cheerfully give it. The reason why Mr. Noble's two trees he speaks about produced more fruit than the other trees, in my opinion, is, the leached ashes and cinders kept the trees from putting out blossoms as early as the other trees. The same effect would be produced by planting the peach in a mixture of clay; but the better way, in my opinion, is, to throw around the trees, after the ground freezes, a quantity of leached ashes or muck, and allowing it to remain until late in the spring, say the first of May, and then remove nearly all of it. As it is generally admitted that peaches raised on a sandy soil are larger and of finer flavor than those grown on a clay soil, and the peach needs a hot season to produce the finest fruit, consequently a sandy soil would be preferable, after the peach had escaped the frost.

As to laying down a peach orchard to grass, I should disagree with the Wayne Co. friend, as it will make the tree short lived, and produce fruit of an inferior quality.

I will state that my peach trees, with a few exceptions, produced a fair crop of fruit, some of them bearing eight bushels; and they were pronounced by all that saw them as the finest. All were grown on sandy ground that was hoed several times in the course of the season, and the trees had no protection whatever through last winter and spring. Why the difference in the quantity of fruit the past season in different vicinities, is more than I can account for, and should like to have some person inform us.

E. D. LAY.

Ypsilanti Nursery, Dec. 10th, 1846.

## Wintering Sheep.

[Extract from a letter.]

MR. HURLBUT:

Why don't Messrs. Barker and Swan give us the result of their experience in housing sheep? Mr. S. truly remarks that "one fact in farming is worth a dozen theories." If he and Mr. B. have tried housing,—and if Mr. Spafford has tried his plan of managing sheep, I should think the result of their experience would be of use to the readers of the Farmer. Yours, &c.,

D. S. DENTON.

Unadilla, Livingston Co.